

SUBJECT No. 112.

Earthwork to tanks.

Mr. S. Hanumantha Rao, Devanahalli taluk.

*Summary of discussion.*—The present system of getting the earthwork, etc., to tanks, both major and minor, done by the raiyats of the villages concerned entails trouble and has brought the tanks, in many cases, to dilapidated condition. Prays therefore that this system be abolished, the concessions now given to the raiyats for the maintenance of tanks withheld, and the earthwork undertaken by Government itself.

*Reply of Government.*—The raiyats must continue liable for the maintenance unless they agree to pay a cess to cover the cost of such repairs.

SUBJECT No. 113.

Definite policy for the maintenance of minor tanks.

Messrs. H. V. Rangasami, Hassan taluk, and S. Ramanna, Hassan Municipality.

*Summary of discussion.*—In consideration of the fact that the minor tanks are an asset to the State to an extent of about 6 crores of rupees and that the average annual expenditure on the tanks is only about Rs. 60,000 out of which more than 50 per cent is being spent on supervision alone, it is prayed that the Government do adopt some definite policy in maintaining the said tanks in an efficient condition and thus assure the land owners of their means of subsistence. As a first step, lists should be prepared of all tanks both major and minor requiring restoration. A definite sum should be allotted to each district and the amount divided between the 2 classes of tanks until all the tanks are restored. A committee of raiyats paying more than Rs. 200 as assessment should be appointed in each district and they should be consulted and a programme of works prepared. The work requires much technical skill and so an Irrigation department may be organized so that the work may be properly done.

*Reply of Government.*—Under consideration.

SUBJECT No. 114.

Repairs to major tanks.

Messrs. B. Ramanna and Venkatasubbiah, Krishnarajpete taluk.

*Summary of discussion.*—At present even the slightest repairs to major tanks have to be executed by the Public Works Department on a reference by the Revenue Department. This leads to delay. It is therefore prayed that the Deputy Commissioners be authorised to get petty repairs to major tanks done as in the case of civil buildings.

*Reply of Government.*—Not possible.

SUBJECT No. 115.

Maintenance of restored tanks.

(a) Messrs. Patre Veerappa and Kharidi Lingappa, Kadur taluk.

*Summary of discussion.*—(a) Under the standing orders the landholders under the restored major and minor tanks and channels are to carry out the necessary earthwork to them, even though both wet assessment and irrigation cess are levied on the lands. Pray that the earthwork may be got executed from the irrigation cess fund.

(b) Messrs. B. Ramanna and Venkatasubbaiah, Krishnarajpete taluk.

(b) The annual maintenance work of restored tanks may be done by Government, the cost being recovered from the raiyats concerned in the shape of a cess.

*Reply of Government.*—(a) Cannot be done.

(b) The cess cannot be levied compulsorily. Whenever the raiyats agree to pay the cess, Government have no objection to undertake the maintenance of the tank.

SUBJECT No. 116.

Distribution of water in tanks to be entrusted to the Irrigation department.

Mr. Rāmanuja Iyengar, Gubbi taluk.

*Summary of discussion.*—Owing to repeated failure of rains and the scanty dry crops famines are on the increase. Even when tanks fill there is no adequate outturn of wet crops. The raiyats in America have far advanced in the principles of preserving water in their reservoirs for use in time of scarcity. In the Punjab and Chenaub the Irrigation department distributes water equitably. It may be ascertained what the yield there is for one cubic foot of water supplied, and that would show the benefit of entrusting the equitable distribution of water to the Irrigation department. It would be more profitable both to the people and Government if the same is entrusted to the Department of Public Works, (Irrigation department), than to the ignorant *nirgantis*. The raiyats under some of the tanks are willing to pay the acreage cess and it is prayed that early orders may be passed in the matter.

*Mr. Amblé Annaiya Pandit.*—A nala manegar should not be entrusted with the work of distributing water. This should be done either by the Public Works Department or left to the raiyats themselves.

*Reply of Government.*—Under consideration.

SUBJECT No. 117.

Removal of silt of the malnad tanks.

Mr. Yagayyana Krishnappa, Sagar taluk.

*Summary of discussion.*—It is prayed that the work of removing the silt of malnad tanks may be undertaken by Government early, as large deposits of silt are annually received in the tanks which the raiyats are unable to remove. The attempts made in a few places by the raiyats to remove the accumulated silt to set free the underground springs have been successful. But owing to sparse population the entire work cannot be undertaken by the raiyats. Mere improvement of the tank bund will not be of much use unless the silt is periodically removed.

*Mr. C. Srinivasa Rao.*—The closing of the springs is due to the silt being washed down. This should be prevented.

*Reply of Government.*—The Superintending Engineer is investigating the question and the cases of tanks to which the representation refers may be brought to his notice.

SUBJECT No. 118.

Conservation of tank water.

Mr. Huchveeregowda, Gubbi taluk.

*Summary of discussion.*—Lands situated at a distance of even 3 or 4 miles from the sluices of tanks, such as Amrut Mahal kaval lands and lands of villages other than those in which the tank is situated, have been taken up for cultivation. Though these lands are assessed at low rates, even in years when the tanks fill, the entire atchkat cannot be irrigated, but water is granted to these remote